

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 7-12 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5, and 7-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Caren et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 6. Claim 6 is now canceled. The amendment to claim 5 does not raise any new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

Claim 5 calls for a liquid filling apparatus comprising: an inkjet head comprising: a cavity for storing liquid, a nozzle communicated with the cavity, a discharge device for discharging liquid stored in the cavity through the nozzle, a reservoir which stores liquid on a side of the cavity opposite the nozzle, a channel being defined between the cavity and the reservoir, and an opening and closing valve provided between the cavity and the reservoir for opening and closing the channel; a liquid supply section which supplies the liquid to the nozzle of the inkjet head by contacting the liquid with the nozzle; and a suction device connected to a cavity side of the inkjet head which draws liquid supplied from the liquid supply section to inside the cavity by suction from the nozzle via the cavity.

Applicants respectfully submit that Caren does not teach or suggest the claimed inkjet head having a reservoir which stores liquid on a side of the cavity opposite the

nozzle; a channel being defined between the cavity and the reservoir; and an opening and closing valve provided between the cavity and the reservoir for opening and closing the channel. In addition to omitting these elements, Caren does not even disclose the structure of its inkjet head in a concrete manner.

The Office Action states that Caren discloses a “liquid filling apparatus” (Figure 1) comprising an “inkjet head” (col. 4, lines 51-53) having a “cavity”, a “nozzle”, a “liquid supply section” and a “suction device” 14 (col. 5, lines 49-62), and a “discharge device” (col. 6, lines 10-64), as claimed. It is respectfully noted that FIGS. 1A and 1B are actually representations of the deposition profile of a diluent solution onto two features (i.e. nucleotide spots) of an array, and of the deposition profile of four different sample solutions deposited onto the two features of an array shown in FIG. 1A, respectively, as described in lines 62-67, column 1 of Caren, rather than the liquid filling apparatus.

With respect to claims 7 to 12, Applicants respectfully submit that Caren does not teach or suggest the recited limitations. In addition, claims 7 to 12 depend from claim 5. Therefore, at least by virtue of the dependency of claims 7 to 12 from claim 5, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 to 12 are not anticipated by Caren.

For at least the reasons described above, Applicants respectfully submit that Caren does not anticipate the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

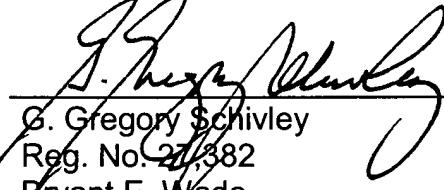
CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus,

prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Dec 19, 2005

By: 

G. Gregory Schivley
Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade
Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

GGS/BEW/cmh